



Received 01/3635

Patent Attorney's Docket No. 003300-339 #15/A (m)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE TC 3635

In re Patent Application of)
Tony PERVAN) Group Art Unit: 3635
Application No.: 90/005,744) Examiner: Y. Horton
Filed: June 13, 2000)
For: METHOD FOR JOINING BUILDING)
BOARD)

CPK 5 7A19

AMENDMENT/REPLY TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Enclosed is a reply for the above-identified patent application.

- [] A Petition for Extension of Time is also enclosed.
[] A Terminal Disclaimer and a check for [] \$55.00 (248) [] \$110.00 (148) to cover the requisite Government fee are also enclosed.
[X] Also enclosed is an Information Disclosure Statement
[] Small entity status is hereby claimed.
[] Applicant(s) request continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and enclose the [] \$355.00 (279) [] \$710.00 (179) fee due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e).
[] Applicant(s) previously submitted __, on __, for which continued examination is requested.
[] Applicant(s) request suspension of action by the Office until at least __, which does not exceed three months from the filing of this RCE, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c). The required fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) is enclosed.
[] A Request for Entry and Consideration of Submission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.129(a) (146/246) is also enclosed.

[] No additional claim fee is required.

[X] An additional claim fee is required, and is calculated as shown below:

03/21/2001 MTWITTY 00000005 024800 90005744
01 FC:103
02 FC:102

70.00 CH 10.00 DP

AMENDED CLAIMS					
	NO. OF CLAIMS	HIGHEST NO. OF CLAIMS PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	EXTRA CLAIMS	RATE	ADDT'L FEE
Total Claims	40	MINUS 23 =	17	× \$18.00 (103) =	\$236.00
Independent Claims	5	MINUS 4 =	1	× \$80.00 (102) =	\$ 80.00
If Amendment adds multiple dependent claims, add \$270.00 (104)					
Total Amendment Fee					\$316.00
If small entity status is claimed, subtract 50% of Total Amendment Fee					
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE DUE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					\$316.00

00005744-051402

[X] A claim fee in the amount of \$ 316.00 is enclosed.

[] Charge \$ _____ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.20(d) and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: William C. Rowland
William C. Rowland
Registration No. 30,888

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: February 28, 2001

(11/00)

OK
Guth
7/2/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Tony PERVAN

Application No.: 90/005,744

Filed: June 13, 2000

For: METHOD FOR JOINING BUILDING
BOARD



Group Art Unit: 3635

Examiner: Y. Horton

HOUSEKEEPING AMENDMENTS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Decision, *sua sponte*, to merge reexamination and reissue proceedings, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 3 and 6 as follows:

3. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein, the locking surface of the locking element [(22)] is extended from a front side [(22)] of the strip through a height in said first direction that is less than or equal to 2 mm.

6. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the strip [(6)], at least for one of the two panels, is received in a countersunk groove in the rear side of this one panel.

Please add new Claims 24-40 as follows:

A3
24. A system as claimed in claim 22, wherein the strip is made of a material different from that of the building panel and fixedly mounted on the building panel at the factory.

25. A system as claimed in claim 24, wherein the strip is fixed to the building panel by means of a mechanical connection.

26. A system as claimed in claim 25, wherein the mechanical connection between the strip and the building panel comprises a gripping edge defined by two recesses in the rear side of the building panel, and tongues or lips, which are bent or punched from the strip and which press against opposite outer sides of the gripping edge.

A3
cont.
27. A system as claimed in claim 25, wherein the mechanical connection between the strip and the building panel comprises a recess in the rear side of the panel, and tongues or lips, which are bent or punched from the strip and which press against opposing inner sides of the recess.

28. A system as claimed in claim 24, wherein the strip is fixed to the building panel by means of a binder.

29. A system as claimed in claim 24, wherein the strip is made of a flexible resilient material.

30. A system as claimed in claim 24, wherein the strip is made of sheet aluminum.

31. A system for providing a joint between adjacent building panels, comprising: each of said building panels including a first edge and a second edge such that the first edge of each of said building panels forms a first mechanical connection with the second edge of an adjacent one of the building panels locking the first and second edges of the building panels to each other in a first direction at right angles to a principal plane of the panels, and

a locking device arranged on a rear side of the building panels forming a second mechanical connection locking the building panels to each other in a second direction parallel to the principal plane and at right angles to the first and second edges, said locking device fitting within a locking groove extending parallel to and spaced apart from the first edge of said building panels, and which locking groove is open at the rear side of the building panels.

the locking device comprising a strip formed at the second edge of each of said building panels, said strip extending throughout substantially an entire length of the second edge and being provided with a locking element projecting from the strip, such that when two adjacent building panels are joined together, the strip projects from the rear side of the

second edge of the panels with its locking element received in the locking groove of an adjacent building panel, and

the locking groove and the locking element being dimensioned such that when adjacent panels are joined together and the locking element is received within the locking groove, there is sufficient space within the locking groove to allow mutual displacement of the adjacent panels in a direction of the first and second edges and to enable the locking element to leave the locking groove if the respective building panel is turned about its first edge angularly away from the locking strip.

32. A system as claimed in claim 31, wherein the panels are rectangular and intended, at each of their four edges, to be joined to a similar panel by a first mechanical connection of the aforementioned type and a second mechanical connection of the aforementioned type, each panel having a first pair of first and second edges, one of which is provided with a strip of the aforementioned type and the other of which is provided with a locking groove of the aforementioned type, and a second pair of opposite first and second edges, one of which is provided with a strip of the aforementioned type and the other of which is provided with a locking groove of the aforementioned type.

33. A system as claimed in claim 31, wherein the strip is made of a material that is different than a remainder of the building panel.

34. A system as claimed in claim 33, wherein the strip is made of aluminum.

35. A system as claimed in claim 31, wherein the strip is made of a same material as a remainder of the building panel, and the strip is integrally formed with the building panel.

36. A system as claimed in claim 31, wherein the strip is fixed to the building panel by means of a mechanical connection.

37. A system as claimed in claim 36, wherein the mechanical connection between the strip and the building panel comprises a gripping edge defined by two recesses in the rear side of the building panel, and tongues or lips, which are bent or punched from the strip and which press against opposite outer sides of the gripping edge.

38. A system as claimed in claim 36, wherein the mechanical connection between the strip and the building panel comprises a recess in the rear side of the panel, and tongues or lips, which are bent or punched from the strip and which press against opposing inner sides of the recess.

39. A system as claimed in claim 31, wherein the strip is fixed to the building panel by means of a binder.

40. A system as claimed in claim 31, wherein the strip is made of a flexible resilient material.

REMARKS

On February 27, 2000, the Examiner handed Applicants' attorney a copy of a document entitled "Decision, *Sua Sponte*, to Merge Reexamination and Reissue Proceedings." The document appears to be dated November 20, 2000. The Examiner was under the belief that the document had been mailed to the office of Applicants' attorneys. However, a review of the docketing records at the office of Applicants' attorneys revealed that the document was never received by Applicants' attorney prior to receiving the document from the Examiner on February 27, 2001.

The Decision requests a housekeeping amendment be filed within one month of the mailing date of the Decision. However, in view of the fact that the document was not received by Applicants' attorney until February 27, 2001, Applicants hereby petition for an extension of this deadline. In the event any fees are required by this petition, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Applicants' attorneys Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Claims 1-23 were pending in the reexamination. By the present response, claims 24-40 have been added and claims 3 and 6 have been amended. Thus, upon entry of the present response, claims 1-40 remain pending and await further consideration on the merits.

As requested by the Decision, the foregoing amendments conform the reexamination proceeding to that of the reissue proceeding. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to proceed with the combined proceeding and to issue a single action which jointly applies to both the reissue application and the reexamination proceeding.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this response, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: William C Rowland
William C. Rowland
Registration No. 30,888

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: February 28, 2001

CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

I, William C. Rowland, hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing communication, was mailed, via first class mail, on February 28, 2001, to:

Thomas P. Pavelko, Esq.
Stevens, Davis, Miller & Mosher, LLP
1615 L Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20036
Attorney for Third-Party Requestor

William C Rowland
William C. Rowland
Registration No. 30,888

Date: February 28, 2001